Fashions popular in the last half century will jog a few memories when the Women's College Club of Princeton reviews its 50-year history at an anniversary luncheon tomorrow. Club members, attired in appropriate costumes, will present a skit highlighting the projects and activities of the WCC since 1916. Shown during a rehearsal session are, left to right, Mrs. Walton Van Winkle, Mrs. Forrest Greswold, Mrs. James Thompson, Mrs. Orrin Wenzel, Mrs. Peter Holnback, Mrs. Stanmore Wilson, Mrs. Robert Plumb and Mrs. Donald Magill.

Recorded in an old minute book are the early decisions made by the College Club's charter members. Mrs. John W. Eckelberry, left, vice president, discusses the club's history with Mrs. John H. Howard, center, past president and anniversary chairman, and Mrs. Hollis Hedberg, president.

Girls' Education Aim Of College Club

By Jean B. Downie
Times-Advertiser Women's Staff

"Service through Scholarships" might well be the motto of the Women's College Club of Princeton. For 50 years the group has promoted educational advancement for young Princeton girls with loans and scholarships.

To mark its golden anniversary this month, the club has arranged two special programs. The first, a luncheon tomorrow at the Nassau Inn, will honor three charter members, Mrs. George Beggs, Mrs. Irving Mershon and Miss Marguerite McClenaghan.

The 50-year history of the club will be dramatized in a skit to be presented by Mrs. Edward Morehouse, Mrs. John Howard, Mrs. Walton Van Winkle, Mrs. John Ahrens, Mrs. Leslie Vivian, Mrs. Forrest Greswold, Mrs. John de Groot, Mrs. Orrin Wenzel, Mrs. Frank Reiche, Mrs. Frank Gorman Jr., Mrs. John Brinster, Mrs. Peter Holnback, Mrs. Robert Plumb, Mrs. James Stretch and Mrs. David Thomas.

Club memorabilia will be displayed and copies of the club history will be distributed to those attending the luncheon.

The second event, open to the Princeton community, will feature Dr. Mary Bunting, president of Radcliffe College, as speaker. Scheduled for February 17 at 8:30 p.m., the program will take place in Pierce Hall of Trinity Church.

Anniversary Award

In addition to the two February events, the club will note its golden anniversary year with the presentation in June of the 50th Anniversary $500 Scholarship Merit Award to a deserving girl graduate of Princeton schools. This award, to be given along with the four other scholarships presented annually by the club to girl graduates of Princeton secondary schools, high school, Miss Fine's and the new Stuart Country Day School, increases the scholarship grants from $1,300 to $1,800.

Dedicated primarily to raising funds for scholarships, the club also seeks to stimulate the intellectual interests of college graduates through various programs and speakers.

The second oldest women's organization in Princeton, the Women's College Club has grown from 80 charter members in 1916 to 410 this year. Membership is limited to graduates of nationally and internationally accredited four-year colleges and universities.

For several years the club extended loan service without interest to deserving students from the high school and Miss Fine's so that they might continue their educaion. From 1918 to 1941, 25 girls received $11,015.50 in loans, all repaid except one.

In 1928 the club voted to award a $250 scholarship to an outstanding girl who had "shown high scholastic standing, leadership ability and promise of future usefulness." Called the Founders' Award, the scholarship honored the club founders who had earned the money for the gift. The Loan Fund was discontinued in 1943 and this money was reinvested for scholarship purposes.

On its 20th anniversary in 1936, the club instituted a second award of $250 based on highest scholarship but considering need, home difficulties and responsibilities and handicaps overcome.

Citation For Excellence

Since 1961 the President's Award, consisting of two gold pins, has been given to a high school girl and one from Miss Fine's School who have achieved the highest academic record of excellence in a specific field.

During the years the club has also given special non-recurring awards such the Osgood Award in 1947, the Fankhauser Award in 1955 and the 30th and 40th anniversary awards. Through a gift of $500 in the will of Miss Cora Hall, an additional scholarship was presented to girl graduates from 1962-65. The most recent memorial award, given in 1964, honored Mrs. Norman V. Hope, a past president, and was made possible by gifts from members of the club and friends of Mrs. Hope.

Increased membership, higher dues and wise investment policies have enabled the club to give more and larger scholarships. Between 1928 and 1965 a total of $26,750 was awarded to 117 girls and gold pins were won by 10 girls.